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Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 12 February 2015 from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity addressed to the Secretary-General

At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision XII/22, entitled "Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas".

In paragraph 3 of that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to include in the ecologically or biologically significant marine areas repository the summary reports prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighteenth meeting and to submit the reports, prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to the General Assembly and in particular to its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as to parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations in line with the purpose and procedures set out in its decisions X/29 and XI/17. It also requested the Executive Secretary to present the reports to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

Pursuant to those requests, the summary reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas are provided in all official languages of the United Nations on the official website of the Convention: http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-12, along with the other decisions referred to in decision XII/22.

(*Signed*) Braulio **Ferreira de Souza Dias**
Executive Secretary
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